It is not believed that this response occasions any fee but should there be any such fee, please charge to Deposit Account No. 02-4467.

Applicants respectfully request that the above-identified application be amended as follows:

* * *

Please amend the application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

In accordance with amendment practice pursuant to Rule 1.12(c)(1)(i), presented below is a "clean" set of "rewritten claims." A "marked-up" version of this claim is attached hereto as Exhibit 1 pursuant to Rule 1.121(c)(1)(ii).

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1. (Twice Amended) A method for classifying and counting leukocytes comprising the steps of:

(1) adding to a hematological sample the following fluorescence-labeled antibodies labeled with fluorescent dyes which emit fluorescences distinguishable from each other;

(a) a first fluorescence-labeled antibody which binds specifically to leukocytes,

(b) a second fluorescence-labeled antibody which binds to at least one kind of neutrophilic cells, and

(c) a third fluorescence-labeled antibody which binds to at least one kind of immature granulocytic cells,

in order to stain the leucocytic cells in the hematological sample, and

removing erythrocytes from the hematological sample;

(2) analyzing the resulting hematological sample using a flow cytometer to measure at least one scattered light signal and three separate fluorescence signals;

(3) defining a group of granulocytic cells on the basis of intensity of the scattered light and intensity of fluorescence from the first fluorescence-labeled antibody;

(4) distinguishing eosinophils and a group of neutrophilic cells in the defined group of granulocytic cells on the basis of the intensity of the fluorescence from the first fluorescence-labeled antibody and the intensity of the fluorescence from the second or third fluorescence-labeled antibody;

(5) classifying the defined group of the neutrophilic cells into groups of neutrophilic cells different in degree of maturity on the basis of the intensity of the fluorescence from the second fluorescence-labeled antibody and the intensity of the fluorescence from the third fluorescence-labeled antibody, and

counting the number of cells in each of the groups.

B1 cancel

Please add the following claims:

--12. The method according to claim 1 that in the step (4), a two-dimensional scattergram is produced from the intensity of the fluorescence from the first fluorescence-labeled antibody and the intensity of the fluorescence from the second or third fluorescence-labeled

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